UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Most 343-5634

For Release February 17, 1966

POWER COMPANY TO FINANCE CAPE COD CANAL FISHERIES STUDY, INTERIOR REPORTS

A Massachusetts power company will finance a \$118,000 Federal-State study of a proposed steam-electric plant's possible effect on sport fishing in the Cape Cod Canal of Massachusetts, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The Plymouth County Electric Company of Cambridge, Mass., plans to use sea water from the man-made canal for cooling purposes and return it to the canal at a higher temperature.

John S. Gottschalk, Director of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, said the Cape Cod Canal is an important travel lane for striped bass and other marine game fish. This fishery supported about 400,000 fisherman trips in 1964.

"The Plymouth County Electric Company's concern for this fishery by volunteering to finance the study is an outstanding example of the growing awareness by industry of its role in the conservation movement," Gottschalk said.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, which will assist the Bureau in conducting the two-year research program, has estimated that sport fishermen using the Cape Cod Canal spend about \$4 million annually.

The research project will consist of both laboratory and field studies. Laboratory investigations will determine the effect of abrupt temperature changes on various species of fish found in the Cape Cod Canal. This phase of the project will be conducted by the Bureau's marine game fish research laboratory at Sandy Hook, N. J.

Field investigations by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries will determine seasonal distribution, concentration, and utilization of marine life in the Canal, particularly near the site of the proposed power plant. Additional field studies will establish the pattern of water temperature at various tidal stages before and after the power plant begins operations.

75519